

Message

**From:** Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/4/2023 2:22:37 PM  
**To:** Mugdan, Walter [Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]; Simon, Paul [Simon.Paul@epa.gov]; Evangelista, Pat [Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov]; Prince, John [Prince.John@epa.gov]; Hick, Patricia (she/her/hers) [Hick.Patricia@epa.gov]; Garcia, Lisa [Garcia.Lisa@epa.gov]; Glenn, Olivia [Glenn.Olivia@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: David Batson investigation request -- Politico's E&E News  
**Attachments:** PPT - Request for Investigation into Potential Violation by David Batson of the Lifetime Ethics Ban (4).pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Flagging because this is relevant to recent interactions on Diamond Alkali. I believe

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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More on this organization can be found here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotectpublictrust.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7CGarcia.Lisa%40epa.gov%7C3704230f7b0f4487f19f08db35180ac2%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C638162149611913481%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhYWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C&sdata=whXTEi6A6mucVCJtxJico8ikVwfs5rAD7wLJZDsduFm%3D&reserved=0.>

Mary Mears  
Public Affairs Director  
US EPA Region 2  
Mobile: 646-369-0077  
Desk: 212 637 3673  
Mears.mary@epa.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ellie Borst <eborst@eenews.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:49 AM  
**To:** EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Michalos, Maria <Michalos.Maria@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Brann, Khanya (she/her/hers) <Brann.Khanya@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** David Batson investigation request -- Politico's E&E News

Hi Maria, Tim, Khanya and Mary,

My name is Ellie Borst, and I'm a reporter with Politico's E&E News. I'm writing up an article about a request for investigation into David Batson, a former EPA official who served as the senior alternative dispute resolution specialist and ADR counsel (attached). The complaint surrounds Batson's involvement in the Diamond Alkali/Lower Passaic River Superfund site.

Is there any comment EPA would like to provide at this time? I'm working on a tight deadline -- 12 p.m. noon today.

Let me know if I can answer any questions you have for me.

Thank you,  
Ellie

Ellie Borst  
E&E News reporter  
480-234-3300  
eborst@eenews.net  
she/her

Message

**From:** Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/4/2023 2:10:40 PM  
**To:** EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Michalos, Maria [Michalos.Maria@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Brann, Khanya (she/her/hers) [Brann.Khanya@epa.gov]; Rodriguez, Elias [Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov]  
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Hi team OPA,  
Looking at the attachment, this is a request for the EPA IG to investigate. I recommend Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Mary Mears  
Public Affairs Director  
US EPA Region 2  
Mobile: 646-369-0077  
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Mears.mary@epa.gov

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**From:** Mears, Mary  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 10:00 AM  
**To:** EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Elias <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Michalos, Maria <Michalos.Maria@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Brann, Khanya (she/her/hers) <Brann.Khanya@epa.gov>  
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Taking the reporter off and adding my press chief Elias for awareness. I will connect with R2's ORC on this and circle back with this group. I do not know this person (David Batson), so I don't think he was a regional employee.

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Message

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**From:** Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/4/2023 3:29:18 PM  
**To:** Ellie Borst [eborst@eenews.net]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Michalos, Maria [Michalos.Maria@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Brann, Khanya (she/her/hers) [Brann.Khanya@epa.gov]; Rodriguez, Elias [Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: David Batson investigation request -- Politico's E&E News

Good morning, Ellie,

This is a request for the EPA's IG to investigate. The EPA IG is, of course, independent from EPA and you should contact the EPA's Inspector General directly. Please reach out to the EPA IG's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 566-2391 or contact Lori Hoffman or Jennifer Kaplan at [Hoffman.Lori@epa.gov](mailto:Hoffman.Lori@epa.gov) or [kaplan.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:kaplan.jennifer@epa.gov).

Mary

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Thank you, Mary. I've reached out to EPA's IG.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 11:29 AM  
**To:** Ellie Borst <eborst@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>  
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**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

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